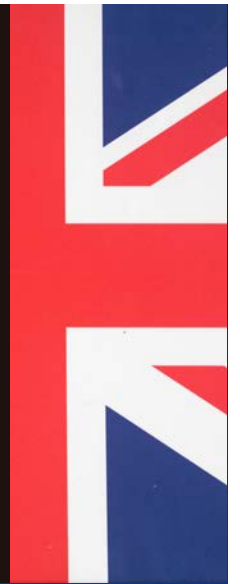


STRIVING FOR  
EXCELLENCE

# British Beacon Mosque Awards 2020



Sat 5th December 2020 7PM On  
[www.facebook.com/beaconmosque](https://www.facebook.com/beaconmosque)

**faith**  
ASSOCIATES

EMPOWERING  
COMMUNITIES

Celebrating the Best Of British Mosques









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## SHAUKAT WARRAICH CEO - FAITH ASSOCIATES

It is with both pleasure and deep gratitude with the grace of Allah (SWA) that I have the opportunity to celebrate with you the amazing work of our UK Mosques. This year's engagement and the quality of nominations has been outstanding.

The need to reward and celebrate the great achievements of our Mosques especially this year during the COVID-19 pandemic was even more important. The saying goes, **"when the going gets tough, the tough get going"** mashallah the UK Mosque leadership and the 1000's of volunteers that run and maintain these institutions have excelled during the global crisis. I have witnessed with my own eyes mashallah the noble work being done by our Mosque teams. History will bare witness to the sacrifices and fortitude of the many that helped and supported all communities during the pandemic. Many Mosques, have become hubs for support and coordination during this national crisis, hence it was important to create a new category of award the **"best COVID-19 response"** from a Mosque. Whoever, wins this award will have demonstrated resolve and strategic endeavours that will be remembered for years to come inshallah.



At the beginning of 2020, I released a thought piece called **"Beacon Mosques Striving for Excellence a 30 year plan 2020-2050"**. In this document I proposed a vision where Mosques needed to look, listen, reach out beyond the boundaries of their own walls and perimeters. Articulate and express the ways (Sunnah), methods and pronouncements of the final Prophet of Islam, Muhammed صلى الله عليه وسلم. As the Quran states

*'Certainly a mosque founded on piety from the very first day is more deserving that you should stand in it: in it are people who love that they should be purified.'* (Quran chapter 9: verse 108.)

To achieve these, 'Beacon' Mosques they need to be led so that change takes place over time through three interconnected streams of activity that are by their nature; Spiritual, Sustainable and Safe. What I have seen this year are Mosque leaderships and volunteers in the United Kingdom who have come forward to reach out to their fellow men and women irrespective of creed, colour and religion to support humanity. Those that have done just that are truly "Beacon Mosques" and we intent to celebrate all those who have shown those qualities, with your help.

Thank You

**Shaukat Warraich – CEO Faith Associates / Beacon Mosques**





## IMAM QARI ASIM CHAIR - MINAB

The Beacon Mosque Awards is a fantastic opportunity to recognise the hard work of our mosques and to celebrate the remarkable achievements of Mosques and individuals who have contributed to making some of our Mosques truly dynamic and vibrant institutions. I am humbled to see how many Mosques- despite the financial restraints- mobilised donors and volunteers during the coronavirus lockdown to offer innovative services to their communities. The support ranged from helping local foodbanks to delivering shopping to the elderly and those shielding, caring for the health and mental wellbeing of the vulnerable to caring for the environment, supporting the frontline staff and even offering mosque space to the NHS etc.

It is extremely important that we celebrate the incredibly positive contribution and wonderful achievements of our Mosques across Britain to share best practices, inspire others and develop the confidence to sustain and improve the standard of operation and accountability of our faith institutions.

Despite 2020 being an unprecedented year, the phenomenal work of many mosques in so many different areas is truly inspiring. The fact that there were over 40,000 online votes during the pandemic highlights how much the annual Beacon Mosque Awards are valued by British Muslims.



At MINAB we aim to improve good governance and standards of Imams and Mosques so that the services offered by our Mosques are not only wide-ranging but innovative, inclusive and beneficial to communities across the UK. With these objectives in mind, MINAB proudly partners up with the Beacon Mosque awards organised by our affiliate Faith Associates. Those shortlisted and the winners of these prestigious awards make their communities proud.

The impactful and motivational Imams and Mosque leadership- male and female- who work tirelessly to improve the standards of their services and engagement with mosques deserve our gratitude, wider recognition and generous appreciation. Without doubt, the traditional model of operating mosques has been considerably affected by Covid-19. But at the same time the pandemic has presented opportunities for us to re-consider our income streams, infrastructures and impact. The mosque leadership must grasp this opportunity and reconsider its priorities - make space for young people and women in our mosques as well on our management boards, and invest in online services to keep our mosques truly inclusive, relevant and vibrant institutions.

Insha'Allah the winners of Beacon Mosque awards shall act as beacons to inspire many other Mosques and institutions to be much more efficiently managed, inclusive and digital institutions in the post-covid-19 era.





**MAYOR OF LONDON**

## **SADIQ KHAN MAYOR OF LONDON**

It's been a difficult year for everyone in our communities, with COVID-19 causing real suffering and hardship, and testing our strength and resilience like never before. But news that a vaccine is soon to be rolled out means there is finally light at the end of the tunnel. And as we come together for the 2020 Beacon Mosque Awards, I believe we can look forward with renewed hope and optimism.

After spending so many months apart, these awards present a welcome opportunity for us to connect with one another virtually and celebrate the huge contribution Mosques have made in supporting communities up and down our country during these tough times. When our Mosques were closed the beauty of Islam shone through. From setting up food banks to feed the hungry, to taking care of older and more vulnerable residents who might be at risk of loneliness, our Mosques have been at the forefront of the response to this pandemic and deserve to be recognised for their incredible efforts.

As the Mayor of London, and as a British Muslim, I'm well aware of the amazing work many Mosques do – not only to support their congregations, but to promote unity, strengthen our social fabric and counter negative stereotypes of Islam in the wider community. That's why I will always stand up for our faith communities and seek to emulate your example of building bridges, not walls.

Guided by the teachings of our Prophet (PBUH), who preached a message of peace, tolerance and compassion, you have truly shown this year why our diversity isn't a weakness, but one of our greatest strengths. Against a backdrop of adversity, we have seen the best of humanity, as Mosques provided invaluable support to all those who needed it within their local communities, regardless of their faith or background.

The kindness, empathy and generosity you have demonstrated this year has been nothing short of inspiring. So, I want to finish by saying a heartfelt thank you to every person and religious institution who has helped to support others through this challenging time. In dark times, you have been vital beacons of light at the heart of our communities. Thank you!

**Sadiq Khan  
Mayor Of London**





LIVE

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**His Excellency  
Moazzam Ahmad Khan**  
High Commissioner, Pakistan (TBC)



**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London



**Rt Hon Amanda Milling MP**  
Chairman  
Conservative Party



**Shaukat Warraich**  
CEO, Faith Associates  
& Beacon Mosque Standards



**Harfiyah Haleem**  
Secretary  
Eco Islam



**Afzal Khan CBE MP**  
Shadow Deputy Leader  
House of Commons



**Baron Patel of Bradford**  
Representative  
England & Wales Cricket Board



**Dr Mahmood Chandia**  
Senior Lecturer  
University of Central Lancashire



**Monia Sahar Zahid**  
Chairperson  
Moroccan Youth UK



**Shaykh Ahmed Babikir**  
Director  
Rumi Centre & Ulfa Trust



**Dr Imam Qari Asim MBE**  
Chairman  
MINAB



**Shaykh Adam Kelwick**  
Speaker and International  
Humanitarian



**Dr Ahmad M. Makhdoom**  
Regional Director  
Muslim World League



**Saleha Islam**  
Judge  
British Beacon Mosque Awards



**Zulfiqar Ali Karim, DL**  
President  
Council for Mosques, Bradford

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A photograph of the British Beacon Mosque at sunset. The mosque's architecture features large, arched openings and a lower section with a decorative, perforated metal screen. The sky is a deep blue, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow. An airplane is visible in the sky, flying from left to right. The entire scene is reflected in a pool of water in the foreground.

British Beacon Mosque Awards 2020  
Over 500 nominations received  
for  
11 Categories  
40 Finalists Shortlisted  
Over 40,000 Votes Cast Online  
Winners Announced  
Sat 5th December 2020 at 7pm



# Best Run Mosque Award



## 1 Green Lane Masjid – Birmingham

Green Lane Mosque was the 2019 winner of the Best Run Mosque award and one of the leading Beacon institutions in the UK. They provide a variety of services and support for the whole community in Birmingham from women, youth, elderly and people of other faith. They have been one of the leading examples of Mosques mobilising due to the COVID pandemic to support their local community through support programmes and services.



## 2 Al Madina Mosque – Barking London

Al Madina Mosque is one of three Mosques in the UK awarded a 'Beacon Mosque' 5 star status. They have previously won Beacon Mosque awards in 2018 and 2019 ceremonies and have contributed greatly to the local community in Barking and Dagenham. They have provided innovative services that make the Mosque a beacon centre in London.



## 3 Minhaj Ul Quran Int – London Branch

Minhaj Ul Quran is a Mosque and Islamic Centre founded in 1994 and has provided services for the community for over 20 years. They regularly provide: Free funeral services, Weekly evening school, Healthcare facility, Local community radio centre, COVID support, Interfaith work, Women and Sisters League and much more.



## 4 Masjid Al Husayn – Leicester

MKSI Leicester is a registered charity, community centre and Mosque that have been serving all forms of the community in Leicester. MKSI serve the local community comprising of over 600 regular attendees (230 member families) with daily prayers and programs including both religious and social functions for all demographics; general, ladies, seniors, youths and children. Programs are both within the centre and online covering a more national participation. Outreach, welfare and local charity including food bank, mental health and sports.



## 5 Ashford and Staines Community Centre – London

Ashford and Staines Community Centre is a vibrant centre offering a holistic range of religious, spiritual, educative, social and charitable services for the Muslim and wider community of Ashford and Staines, drawing on Islamic values and heritage, and delivering these with excellence. They offer a wide range of services to the community and responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by implementing various support services.



# Best Youth service

1



## Sultan Bahu – Birmingham

The Hazrat Sultan Bahu Trust is a registered charity founded in 1983. While education and spirituality remain its core ethos, the Trust has realised the potential of building dynamic and confident communities that can express their faith and knowledge in a manner that is meaningful, productive and constructive in a modern British context. They have provided engaging and accessible youth services to the community in Birmingham for a number of years and these services have had a great impact on the youth.

2



## Hayes Muslim Centre – Hayes London

Hayes Muslim Centre have consistently provided various youth services and activities to the youth in Hayes and Harlington, this was continued in 2020 during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Through the ECB 'All Stars' Programme, Hayes Muslim Centre worked with the England Cricket Board to train the head Imam to provide cricket sessions for the youth every week, providing a source of exercise and entertainment for young children on a consistent basis.

3



## Three Meem Foundation – Manchester

3 Meem Foundation has worked extremely hard to organize a range of activities tailored to the needs of the different aged group members of our local communities. The activities have been both faith based (Islamic) and also non-faith based in nature. Their key focus is personal and social development of young people by engaging them in all aspects of activities in upbringing good character and true reflection of faith. They have a large list of activities and services for the youth in their community.

4



## Al Khizra Majid – Manchester

Khizra Mosque and community centre is based in Manchester and is part of the UK Islamic Mission (UKIM) which is a charity registered in the UK. Khizra Mosque has encouraged youth to engage in the activities held at the centre and carries out activities specifically for the youth. Running many services from the Mosque weekly



# Best Madrasah

1



## Al Hira Masjid/Centre – Luton

Education and spirituality remains a core ethos of Al Hira, the Educational Centre also believe in the potential of building dynamic and confident communities that can express their faith and knowledge in a manner that is meaningful, productive and constructive in a modern British context.

2



## Lantern Academy – Rochdale

Lantern Academy is an innovative Madrasah located in Central Rochdale. They put their students wellbeing at the heart of everything that they do, therefore not only do they offer high-quality education, but also a rich variety of resources and character development activities.

3



## Guidance Hub – Manchester

Guidance Hub was established in 2015 to serve the community of Greater Manchester. Their objective is to build a vibrant, productive and prosperous society. Focusing on: education, spirituality and community.

4



## London Islamic Cultural society – Hackney London

The London Islamic Cultural Society is Haringey's first purpose built Mosque that provides a variety of extensive Madrasah classes and teachings to children in the community. LICS is a unique and dynamic organisation who work in partnership with communities countrywide to provide essential services to our users and local community.



# Best Women Services

1



## Jamia Masjid and Islamic Centre – Slough

Jamia Masjid & Islamic Centre in Slough is a community hub that provides a range of services and support to the local community. They offer school visits to the Mosque, Women's support groups, Health and Well-being sessions, Youth events and much more.

2



## Ashford and Staines Community Centre – London

Ashford and Staines Community Centre is a vibrant centre offering a holistic range of religious, spiritual, educative, social and charitable services for the Muslim and wider community of Ashford and Staines, drawing on Islamic values and heritage, and delivering these with excellence. They offer a wide range of services to the community and responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by implementing various support services.

3



GuidanceHub

## Guidance Hub – Manchester

They are a community hub in Manchester that provide innovative and expert services for the Muslim community. A key part of their service provision is the women's services and activities they provide, for Muslims and Non-Muslims in Manchester.





# Best Outreach services

1



## Maidenhead Mosque and Islamic centre – Maidenhead

Since Maidenhead mosque's establishment in 1983 making it the first purpose built mosque in Berkshire, the mosque has gone through many phases of development and progress. The building has become an attractive landmark of Royal Borough and is well-known to all Muslim and non Muslims. Serving the community, the mosque has developed over the years catering for all people by providing vital services and assistance.

3



## Sultan Bahu Trust – Birmingham

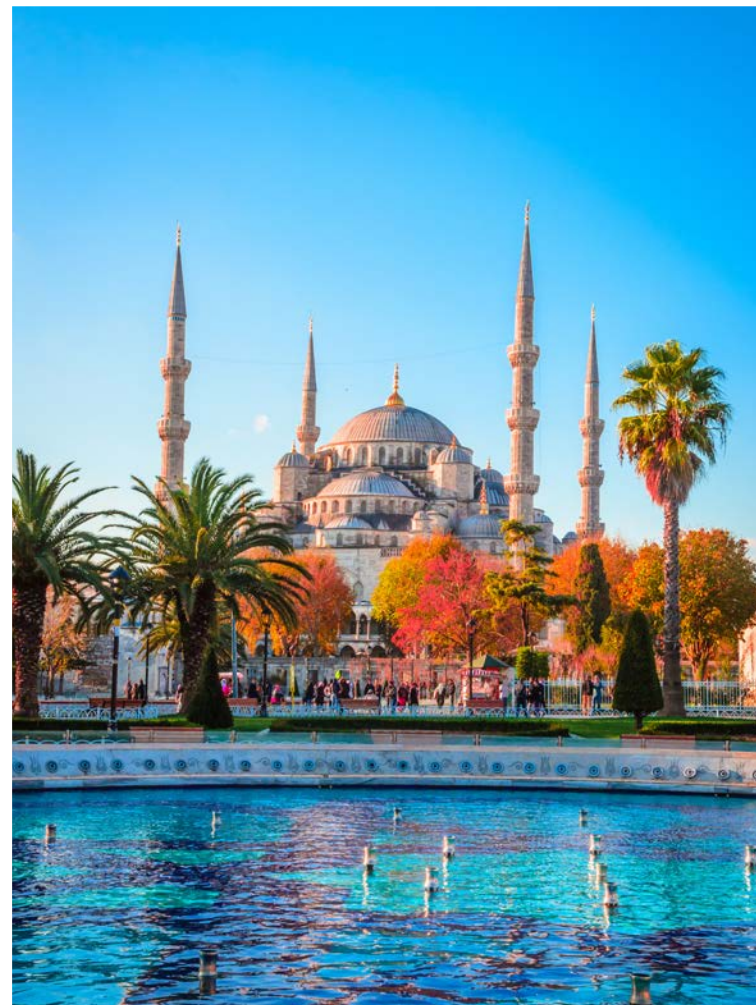
The Hazrat Sultan Bahu Trust is a registered charity founded in 1983. While education and spirituality remain its core ethos, the Trust has realised the potential of building dynamic and confident communities that can express their faith and knowledge in a manner that is meaningful, productive and constructive in a modern British context. They have provided engaging and accessible community services in Birmingham for a number of years and these services have had a great impact.

2



## Masjid Al Falaah – Birmingham

Kokni Muslim Association Birmingham KMAB serves its members from Birmingham and the surrounding area with Masjid Al Falaah, aiming to provide a better understanding of the religion of Islam, and educate people belonging to all ages and genders.





# Best Covid-19 response

1



## Shah Jahan Mosque – Woking Surrey

The Shah Jahan Mosque in Oriental Road, Woking, England, is the first purpose-built mosque in the United Kingdom. Built in 1889. It is a Grade I listed building. The Mosque promotes understanding, peace and harmony through interfaith activities. They responding amazingly to the issues that arose with COVID-19 providing support, supplies, services such as their 24 food parcel service.

2



## Green Lane Masjid and Community Centre – Birmingham

Green Lane Mosque was the 2019 winner of the Best Run Mosque award and one of the leading Beacon institutions in the UK. They provide a variety of services and support for the whole community in Birmingham from women, youth, elderly and people of other faith. They have been one of the leading examples of Mosques mobilising due to the COVID pandemic to support their local community through support programmes and services.

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4



## Finsbury Park Mosque – London

Finsbury Park Mosque is a registered UK Charity which works to serve the community of Islington and surrounding boroughs of North London. Aside from serving as a primary place of worship and religious services to Muslims, we work to promote understanding, dialogue and community cohesion.

5



## East London Mosque – London Muslim Centre

The East London Mosque, which incorporates the London Muslim Centre and the Maryam Centre, has a rich history, with roots in the London Mosque Fund established in 1910. It has gone on to become one of the most active Islamic institutions in Britain. The ELM provided regular services to the community during the pandemic for the elderly and those in need with food banks and drop offs.



# Most Impactful Alimah

1



**Ustadah Rukhia Bi –  
Keele University**

Ustadah Rukhia Bi is a Muslim Chaplain at Keele University and Islamic Centre who joined in 2018 as their first Muslim Chaplain. She has developed a range of bespoke services for students and provides key support to those in need across a range of areas.

2



**Ustadah Sidrah Ahmed –  
Bashir Ahmed Centre  
Southampton**

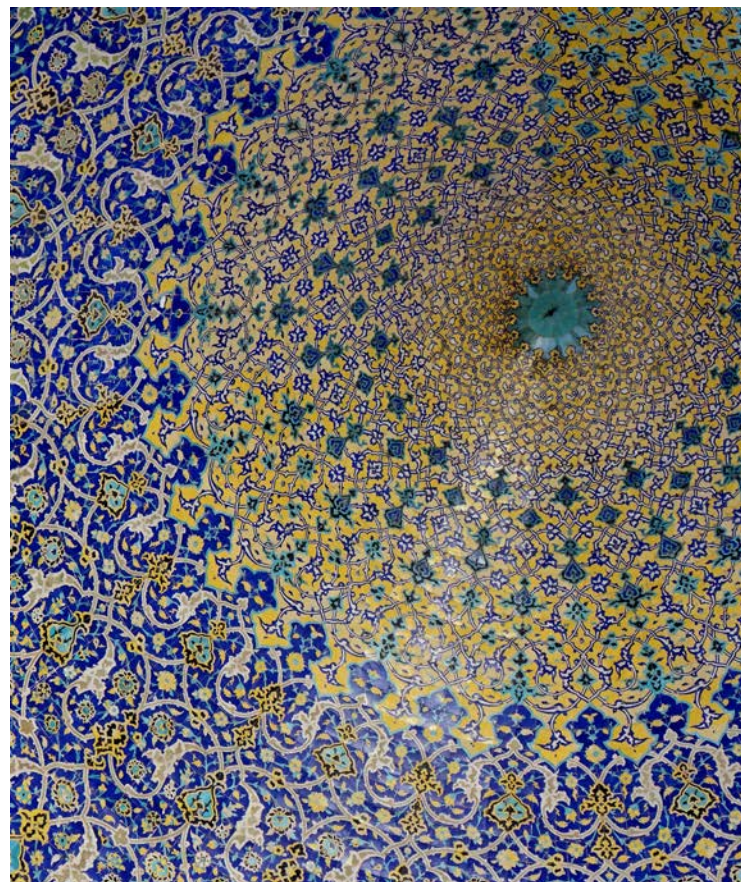
Ustadah Sidrah Ahmed is very active within the community. She is a spiritual advisor and counsellor at Bashir Ahmed Masjid, Southampton. She is also the founder of the Sister2Sister initiative (as a counsellor and advisor for sisters) and is involved with the YouTube channel, Naseeha: In Light of the Quran and Sunnah.

3



**Shaykha Noshin Gul –  
Guidance Hub Manchester**

Shaykha Noshin Gul was born in Birmingham and currently resides in Manchester. After completing her undergraduate degree in Applied Chemistry and postgraduate studies in Material Engineering in 2005, she travelled to Syria in the pursuit of traditional sacred knowledge. She currently serves on the board of Guidance Hub in Manchester and is a lead on many of the activities and initiatives.





# Most Impactful Imam

1



**Shaykh Hassan Raza – Al Markaz-ul-Islami – Bradford**

Shaykh Hassan Raza is the founder of Al-Markaz-ul-Islami. He is a prominent and honourable scholar, striving to educate the Muslim Ummah within England. He is highly qualified in various Islamic sciences such as tafseer, fiqh, aqaid, ahadiths and Arabic grammar.

2



**Shaykh Rafiq Sufi – Chair of Lancashire Council of Mosques and Teacher at Jammia Al Hudda**

Shaykh Rafiq Sufi studied and graduated in 1992 in one of the most recognized Islamic Institution in England, Darul-Uloom al-Arabiyya al-Islamiyya. As well as becoming an Alim (Scholar), he also memorised the Qur'an in different methods of recitation (Qari). He is part of the management of the Lancashire Council of Mosques.

3



**Imam Mansoor Mahmood – Senior Imam Kirkcaldy Central Mosque**

Imam Mansoor Mahmood is currently serving as one of the Imams at Kirkcaldy Central Mosque & Community Centre. He began his Islamic education from a very young age. He was admitted to the Al-Karam Secondary School where he spent four years. After achieving his GCSEs from the school, he then continued his stay at Jamia Al-Karam by studying the 3 year Diploma in Islamic Sciences & Classical Arabic under the guidance of Shaykh Muhammad Imdad Hussain Pirzada.

4



**Ijaz Ahmad Shaami – Senior Imam at NIT Dudley**

Sheikh Ijaz Ahmad Shaami initiated his Islamic education at Hazrat Sultan Bahu Trust, Birmingham, where he graduated in the Traditional Dars-e-Nizami syllabus under Shaykh Rasul Baksh Saeedi and thereafter continued his education in Damascus, Syria, for four years at specialist institutes of higher Learning.

5



**Shaykh Rizwan Hussain Al-Azhari – Ahmed Bashir Masjid Southampton**

Shaykh Rizwan Hussain Al-Azhari began his Islamic education at a very young age. After completing his GCSEs in 2004, he decided to pursue further Islamic education in the Al Karam higher Islamic Studies department, thereby completing the 3 year Diploma in Islamic Sciences & Classical Arabic Language in 2007. He completed his B.A in the studies of Hadith from Al-Azhar University. He has been the Head Imam of Bashir Mosque in Southampton for a number of years

6



**Shaykh Mohammed Aslam – Ghamkol Sharif Birmingham**

Shaykh Mohammed Aslam after returning from Damascus studying, completed Post-graduate studies at the same time as serving as Imam Khatib of one of the largest mosques in Birmingham. Shaykh Aslam established The City of Knowledge Academy which serves as a bustling hub of educational activity as well as also advising various community and grassroots projects around the city.

# Best Elderly Service



## 1 Worthing Islamic Social and Welfare Society

Worthing Islamic Social and Welfare Society provide Muslims and non-Muslims with the opportunity to learn and understand Islam, through dialogue, discussion and social interaction. They provide bespoke elderly service to the community to support those in need, this continued during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 2



## Glasgow Central Mosque

Glasgow Central Mosque is the first purpose-built mosque in Glasgow. It works with other mosques throughout the city to help and represent Muslims from every background. It is one of the most recognised buildings in the city and as a result, a large number of people visit it throughout the year, including the media, schools, colleges, universities and also individuals who wish to learn more about Islam.

## 3



## The Wycombe Islamic Centre

The Wycombe Islamic Centre (also known as Masjid as-Salam or the WISE Masjid) is a purpose built, multi-functional building and is a culmination of the combined efforts of the Muslim community over more than a decade. They provide various services to the community in Wycombe, with bespoke elderly services catering for the whole community, which was continued throughout the COVID pandemic.





# Best Innovative Service

1



## Khizra Masjid and Community Centre – Manchester

Khizra Mosque and community centre is based in Manchester and is part of the UK Islamic Mission (UKIM) which is a charity registered in the UK. Khizra Mosque has encouraged youth to engage in the activities held at the centre and carries out activities specifically for the youth. Running many services from the Mosque weekly

2



## Al Markaz Ul Islami – Bradford

Al Markaz Ul Islami were the first Mosque in the UK to implement technology for sanitisation used for worshippers after lockdown, aimed at improving the safety and cleanliness of the Mosque for worshippers.



# Best Green Initiative



## Al Madina Mosque Barking – London

Creating a good impact report means being transparent with your audience. Back up your claims with relevant data. Keep your sentences concise when necessary, but dive into detail when it comes to qualitative and quantitative evidence. Remember: an impact report is a combination of understanding your mission, your work, and your audience, and communicating that clearly with the rest of the world.



## York Mosque and Islamic Centre

York Mosque and Islamic Centre was established in 1982 and provide a variety of services to the community, with a great focus on Eco-Initiatives. They have a detailed strategy of the work they are doing to become more eco friendly here

2



## Khizra Masjid and Community Centre – Manchester

Khizra Mosque and community centre is based in Manchester and is part of the UK Islamic Mission (UKIM) which is a charity registered in the UK. Khizra Mosque has encouraged youth to engage in the activities held at the centre and carries out activities specifically for the youth. Running many services from the Mosque weekly











- 500 Nominations, for
- 11 Categories
- 40 Shortlisted Finalists
- Over 40,000 Votes Cast Online

**Striving For Excellence In Our Mosques**



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**FAITH ASSOCIATES  
WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE  
COUNCIL OF MOSQUES  
REGIONAL AND NATIONAL BODIES THAT WORKED  
WITH US TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES DURING THE  
COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN 2020**



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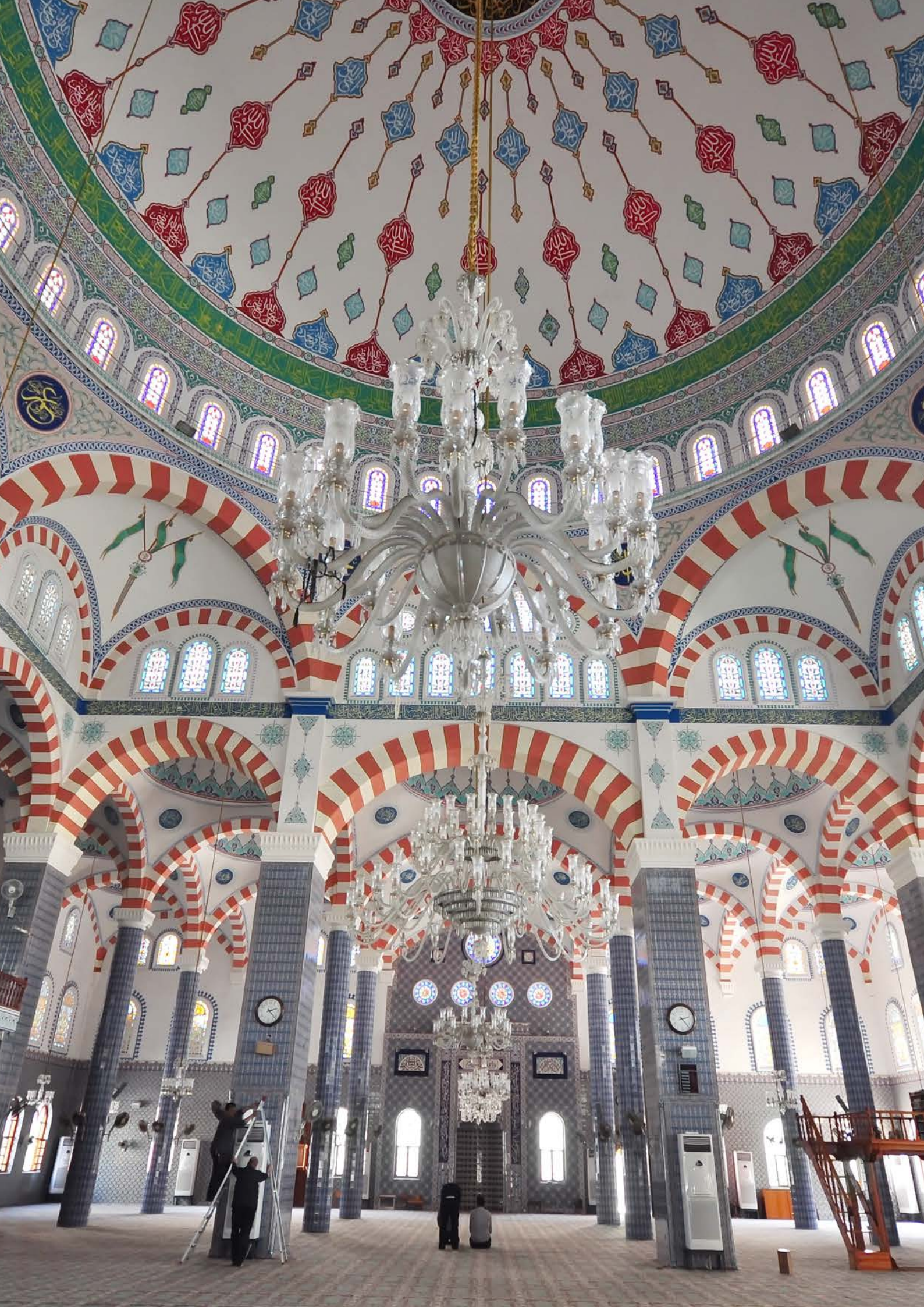
**Striving for Excellence in 10 Areas of  
Mosque Leadership and Management**



1. **Good Governance and Management**
2. **Effective Policies and Procedures**
3. **Facilities Management**
4. **Staffing and Employment**
5. **Financial Management and Fundraising**
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7. **Accountability & Transparency**
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# We thank you for your ongoing support of our programmes

## Acknowledgements



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